

Request for Innovative P2 Metal Finishing Technologies

Date Posted: 5/12/00

Responses Due: 6/9/00

The purpose of this Request for Technology (RFT) is to solicit the participation of metal finishing pollution prevention (P2) equipment vendors/suppliers who wish to have their technology performance verified under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Environmental Technology Verification Program for Metal Finishing P2 Technologies (ETV-MF) Pilot. The goal of the ETV-MF Pilot is to verify the performance characteristics of commercial ready metal finishing P2 technologies through unbiased third party testing under actual operating conditions in metal finishing shops nationwide. As defined by EPA, commercial ready technologies are either in use or ready for full-scale production. This does not include technologies at the bench or pilot-scale or those in the research and development stage.

Focus Areas

A focus area as defined by ETV-MF Program guidelines, is a critical area within the metal finishing industry requiring innovative pollution prevention solutions. The ETV-MF Stakeholder Group has identified four new focus areas: (a) water use reduction/recycle, (b) energy use reduction, (c) metal recovery/recycle, and (d) sludge reduction (net weight of dry solids). Technologies are being solicited for these four focus areas; however, the ETV-MF Pilot requests that manufacturers of technologies outside of these focus areas also apply, in order to be considered for future verification testing.

Verification Process

Suppliers whose technologies are commercial-ready and can prevent or reduce pollution are requested to provide more detailed information, and supporting data for their technologies. The ETV-MF Team will review the information to ensure the technology meets the intent of the solicitation, and with guidance from the stakeholder group will select and rank technologies for verification testing. The ETV-MF Team will hold a meeting with the suppliers to discuss the parameters for verification testing, preparation of a test plan, funding, and test schedules. The verification testing of the technologies will then be conducted according to the approved test plan. The products of verification testing are a Verification Report stating quantitatively the performance of the technology, and a Verification Statement, issued jointly by CTC and EPA, that summarizes the test results.

Funding

Currently the EPA is underwriting/funding the ETV-MF Pilot. To help establish the ETV-MF Pilot, a limited number of verifications will be performed where the cost is shared by the ETV-MF Pilot and the suppliers/vendors. Due to limited funds available to support verification testing, the suppliers/vendors will be asked to contribute funds towards the cost of the verification testing.

The recommended contribution from the supplier is 25% (up to a maximum of \$10,000); the ETV-MF Pilot will contribute 75% of the verification testing costs.

Supplier Involvement

Suppliers are expected to contribute time, equipment, materials, and funds to the verification process. Specifically, suppliers will be requested to attend a "vendor meeting" to obtain specific information on the verification testing process; assist in developing the test plan; identify a metal finishing test site; commit the commercial-ready unit for the duration of the verification test; provide procedures for operating the technology; and assist with set-up and operation of the technology (if necessary), and review the Verification Report and Verification Statement. The ETV-MF Pilot is responsible for: preparing and finalizing the test plan; conducting the verification test; evaluating and verifying the data; preparing a Verification Statement and a Verification Report for the EPA; and disseminating the results to potential purchasers, consulting engineers, and environmental permitters.

Supplier Benefits

The ETV-MF Pilot will prepare and distribute a Verification Statement and Verification Report, under EPA signature, which documents technology performance relative to a pre-established test plan. Suppliers can use the Verification Statement and Report to attract prospective purchasers of their technology by providing them with third-party quality-assured data on technology performance under realistic testing conditions. The ETV-MF Pilot has an aggressive information distribution program. The results of the verification will be published on the EPA and ETV-MF Internet websites and distributed through state and regional information distribution channels to purchasers, consulting engineers, and environmental permitters to increase their awareness of the technology (this assures the maximum exposure and visibility of the results of the verification). Participation will help to maximize supplier marketing resources. Verification conducted under the auspices of the ETV-MF Pilot may alleviate the need of doing product-specific verifications at the direction of each potential purchaser. Finally, the ETV-MF Stakeholder Group includes representation from Federal and state environmental regulatory agencies, Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW), members of industry associations, industry consultants, environmental technology suppliers, and metal finishing shops who provide input on the development of the verification process. This will enhance the acceptance of the verified technology.

Response Format

Interested suppliers should provide the information requested on the enclosed Request for Technology Abstract Submittal Form. As appropriate, confidential or proprietary information should be so indicated on the submission. It is recommended that this type of information be kept to a minimum. Forms should be submitted to the ETV-MF Pilot no later than June 9, 2000, in order to receive consideration for the verification program.

Please address technical questions about this request for technologies to:

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